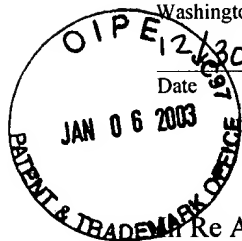


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Atty Dkt No. 0450-0001
PATENT



Date

12/30/02

Margaret K. Surridge
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re Application of:
William Daniel HILLIS

Serial No.: 09/821,694

Group Art Unit: 1634

Filing Date: March 28, 2001

Examiner: Frank Wei Min LU

Title: METHOD AND SEQUENCES FOR DETERMINATE NUCLEIC ACID HYBRIDIZATION

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Box Non Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

This Amendment is in response to the first Office Action, mailed on November 5, 2002, for the above-identified patent application. As this response is being filed within the three-month shortened statutory period set for response, no extension of time is necessary. Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments and remarks that follow.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification at page 6, lines 16-18, as indicated in Appendix A. The amended portion of the specification will then read as follows:

The invention provides a method of reducing the required number of unique hybridizing sequences that may be used to hybridize to a nucleic acid sequence of interest under hybridizing conditions. The method involves hybridizing to the nucleic acid sequence of interest a first hybridizing nucleotide sequence and a second hybridizing nucleotide sequence, each hybridizing nucleotide sequence